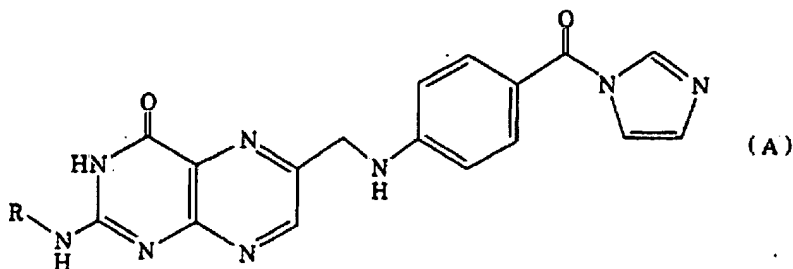
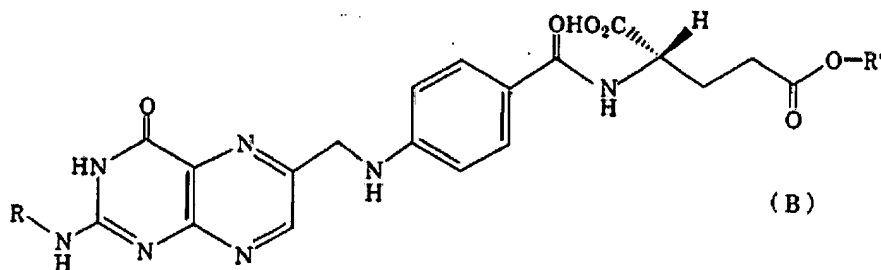


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

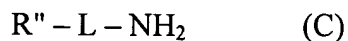
1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a folic acid-amide compound comprising: a) reacting an imidazolidine represented by the following formula (A):



wherein R represents a protecting group for amino acid and is an amino acid protecting group used in peptide synthesis, with γ -lower alkyl L-glutamate in an organic solvent in the presence of an organic strong base to form a γ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate which is represented by the following formula (B):

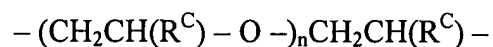


wherein R has the same definition as in formula (A), and R' represents a lower alkyl; and
b) reacting a γ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the formula (B) with an amine compound of the following formula (C):

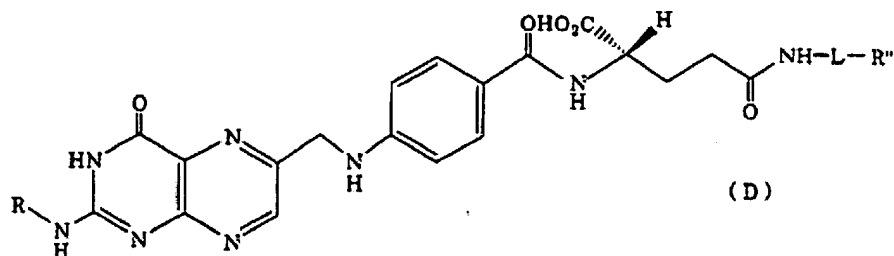


wherein R'' represents a group that forms a covalent bond with a functional group of an organic compound and which has no adverse effect on the binding of folic acid to a folic acid recognizing receptor amino, substituted disulfide, acetylene, or azide, and

L represents a valence bond, C₁ - C₅ alkylene or an oligo- or poly-(oxyalkylene) of the following formula,

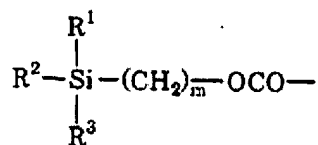


wherein R^{C} represents hydrogen or methyl, and n is an integer of from 1 - 10,000 to produce a folic acid-~~amine~~amide compound of the following formula (D):



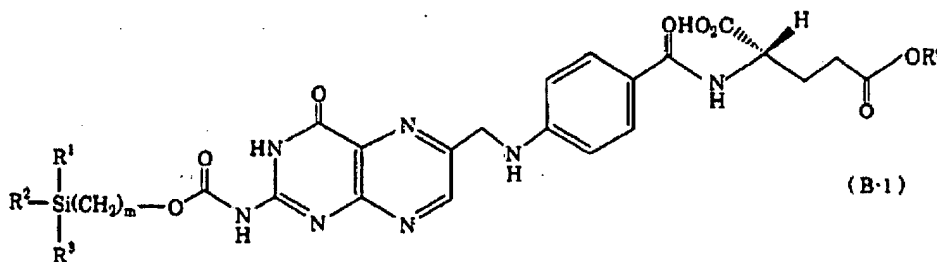
wherein R has the same definition as in the above formula (A), and L and R'' have the same definitions as in the above formula (C).

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R in the formula (A) is a group represented by the following formula,



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represents lower alkyl, and m represents an integer of from 1 - 4.

3. (Previously Presented) A Gamma-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the following formula (B-1):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represents lower alkyl; m represents an integer of 1 - 4; and R' represents lower alkyl.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R represents benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl, or p-toluenesulfonyl.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 2, wherein R represents trimethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 3-trimethylsilylpropoxycarbonyl, 2-ethyltrimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 2-tert-dimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, triethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, or 2-triethylsilylethoxycarbonyl.